

REMARKS

Claims 1-49, 55, 57, 58, 60, 64-68, 73, 77-88, 90, and 92 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 61, 89, and 91 are canceled and claims 60 and 92 are amended. Claim 91 is simply placed into independent form as amended claim 60, and claim 92 is amended for clarity to correct an antecedent mistake relating to "the steering shaft." The latter change was expressly indicated to be acceptable in the Advisory Actions of March 14, 2003 and June 6, 2003.

This Amendment corrects the typographical error made in the last Amendment After Final Rejection, filed May 14, 2003, and denied entry in the Advisory Action dated June 6, 2003. Claim 60 now correctly reflects the subject matter of original claim 91 reciting "on the tunnel." The Advisory Action states that the other amendments and cancellations will be entered.

Prompt entry of this Amendment is requested as the amendments herein serve only to reduce issues for appeal, and no new issues are presented requiring further consideration by the Examiner. Therefore, it is believed that entry is proper.

Upon entry of this Amendment, a Supplemental Appeal Brief showing the correct version of claim 60 will be submitted.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached Appendix is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made".

Respectfully submitted,

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Appendix

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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 61, 89, and 91 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 60 and 92 as follows:

60. (Five Times Amended) A snowmobile, comprising:

a frame having a forward-most drive track axle disposed thereon;

a straddle seat disposed on the frame;

an engine disposed on the frame in front of the seat;

two skis disposed on the frame; and

a steering device disposed on the frame and operatively connected to the two skis for steering the snowmobile;

wherein the snowmobile has a center of gravity without a rider and the steering device is disposed on the frame forward of the center of gravity, and wherein the forward-most axle is positioned forward of the center of gravity and rearward of a rearward-most portion of the steering device such that the center of gravity is rearward of the rearward-most portion of the steering device, and

wherein the frame includes a tunnel, and the forward-most drive track axle is positioned on the tunnel.

92. (Twice Amended) An assembly comprising:

- a frame including a tunnel;
- a straddle seat mounted on the frame;
- an engine disposed on the frame in front of the seat;
- two skis disposed on the frame;
- a steering shaft operatively connected to the two skis, the steering shaft being disposed over the engine at an angle  $\epsilon$  of between  $25^\circ$  and  $40^\circ$  from vertical;

wherein the tunnel supports a drive belt coupled to the engine and defines a footrest on each side of the seat that is inclined at an angle  $\Delta$  with horizontal that is between  $0^\circ$  to  $-10^\circ$ ; and

wherein a forward-most axle of the drive belt is positioned rearward of the steering [device] shaft.

END OF APPENDIX